



A Program with the
Colorado Attorney General
and the AARP Foundation



Colorado Attorney General
John W. Suthers



Better Business Bureau®
Serving Colorado



Check Out the Charity First

During the holiday season many people feel like giving to their favorite charities. Generous giving is encouraged, but we want you to give wisely. Before you give anything to a charity, perform your due diligence.

- Never give payment information to anyone *calling you*.
- Ask the charity to send you printed material via mail. If the material does not contain details on exactly how the money is used and the percent of donations which actually reach the given cause, do not contribute.
- Don't give in to pressure or hard sell tactics and if the charity representative pressures you to give money immediately or as soon as possible, this is reason to be suspicious.
- Avoid all charities that use a "pitch" filled with a significant amount of emotional words and/or images.
- Be especially cautious when there are natural or other disasters. Fraudulent charities take advantage of those situations to trick people who want to help the victims.

Before you give check here first:

1. www.checkthecharity.com which is a *public-private partnership to promote Colorado charities and to inform and protect donors*
2. www.give.org is a site hosted by the BBB where you can *review all aspects of a charity*

The best way to avoid charity fraud is to decide **IN ADVANCE** (while you're doing your annual or monthly budget) which charities you'll support and contact them. Then you can gracefully turn down anyone else who comes your way with hat in hand.

Recognize, Refuse, Report.

AARP ElderWatch is here to help.
Call us Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.
Our trained staff is here to listen and guide.

Prevent Financial Elder Abuse!

1-800-222-4444

Denver Metro Area
303-222-4444

www.aarpelderwatch.org

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